

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 141130Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8297

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: CLERIDES' SPEECH; LOCAL ELECTIONS

REF: NICOSIA 358; FBIS M122016 AND M131008

SUMMARY: CLERIDES DELIVERS MODERATE SPEECH TO MIXED AUDIENCE IN TURKISH SECTION OF NICOSIA. ALDIKACTI DOWNPLAYS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EXPERTS. SPECULATION ON LOCAL ELECTION POSTPONEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 12, HOUSE PRESIDENT CLERIDES DELIVERED UNPRECEDENTED SPEECH ON INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS TO LARGE MIXED AUDIENCE IN TURKISH SECTION OF NICOSIA. ELITE OF BOTH COMMUNITIES, BELOW LEADERSHIP LEVEL, PRESENT. SPEECH WAS REMARKABLY MODERATE AND CONCILIATORY: STRESSING NEED ALL CYPRIOTS WORK TOGETHER TO CONFRONT COMMON PROBLEMS. CLERIDES REITERATED POSITION THAT ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION FOR CYPRUS

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PROBLEM IS INDEPENDENT STATE (WHILE POINTEDLY OMITTING ANY

REFERENCE TO STANDARD UNITARY LITANY). COMMENT: SPEECH WIDELY, AND FAVORABLY, COMMENTED ON IN GREEK- (BUT NOT RPT NOT TURKISH) LANGUAGE PRESS. FOLLOWING EARLIER HARDLINE DENKTASH ADDRESS TO ROTARIANS, CLERIDES CLEARLY WENT OUT OF WAY IN CATERING TO TURK CYPRIOT SENSITIVITIES. END COMMENT

2. SPEAKING TO GREEK CYPRIOT REPORTERS BEFORE SPEECH, TURKISH CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERT ALDIKACTI DENIED TURK CYPRIOTS SEEKING "STATE WITHIN A STATE". HE TERMED HIS DIFFERENCES WITH DEKLERIS "NATURAL"; AND INSISTED OUTSTANDING ISSUES SURMOUNTABLE.

3. IN ADDITION SOOTHING EFFECT ABOVE STATEMENTS, THERE INCREASING SPECULATION THAT POTENTIALLY CONTENTIOUS LOCAL ELECTIONS WILL BE POSTPONED. ON MARCH 12, RIGHT-WING FARMERS UNION (PEK) CALLED ON ARCHBISHOP TO DEFER ELECTIONS IN ORDER AVOID FURTHER SPLIT IN NATIONALIST CAMP. ACCORDING PEK, MAKARIOS SAID GOVT "CONSIDERING IMPLICATIONS" OF ELECTIONS AND WOULD TAKE DECISION IN CONSULTATION WITH HOUSE (NICOSIA 358 SETS OUT EMBASSY EVALUATION ELECTION IMPLICATIONS). COMMENT: PEO HAS NOT RPT NOT DENIED PEK ACCOUNT OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT ALL SIDES (WITH EXCEPTION AKEL AND LYSSARIDES) WANT AVOID ELECTIONS AT THIS TIME. LESS CLEAR HOW THIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE ACHIEVED. END COMMENT.
GRANT

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